

Miami Herald

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ELAINE THOMPSON AP

AMTRAK TRAIN DERAILS OVER HIGHWAY

Cars from an Amtrak train lay on the interstate below, alongside smashed vehicles, after a deadly derailment in DuPont, Washington, which is about 40 miles south of Seattle. At least three people were killed when the train hurtled off the overpass Monday before 8 a.m. local time, and more than 100 were injured, authorities said. The train was moving at more than 80 miles per hour just before reaching the overpass. Story, Page 9A

NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY

Trump, in national security plan, warns of ‘great power competition’ with Russia, China

■ President Donald Trump framed a new national security strategy that stressed the “America first” message of his 2016 campaign.

BY MARK LANDLER
AND DAVID E. SANGER
New York Times

WASHINGTON
President Donald Trump declared Monday that the United

States faced growing competition from Russia and China, two great-power rivals that he said “seek to challenge American influence, values and wealth.”
But Trump, in presenting a

new national security strategy that carried distinct echoes of the Cold War, said nothing about Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election, even though the official strategy document itself warns briefly of “Russia using information tools in an attempt to undermine the legitimacy of democracies.”

Trump referred instead to a Sunday telephone call from President Vladimir Putin of Russia, who thanked him for intelligence that the C.I.A. had passed on to Russian authorities, which Trump said foiled a terrorist attack in St. Petersburg that

SEE SECURITY, 2A

SOUTH FLORIDA

Fugitive who ran internet scams is linked to Hezbollah

■ Roda Taher is sought for directing more than a dozen “money mules” in a \$94 million internet scheme in South Florida that law enforcement sources say he used to finance Hezbollah, the Middle Eastern terrorist organization.

BY JAY WEAVER
jweaver@miamiherald.com

Once convicted of setting up phony companies to deposit stolen checks at local banks, Roda Taher fled South Florida for the Middle East to avoid prison time.

Eight years later, Taher is a fugitive on new and more serious charges. He’s wanted for directing more than a dozen “money mules” in a \$94 million internet scheme in South Florida that law enforcement sources say he used to finance Hezbollah, the radical Muslim group based in Lebanon. It is a U.S.-designated terrorist organization and has been linked to bombings and killings of Israelis and other Western targets in the Middle East.

The 38-year-old Taher paid the mules a fee to set up numerous shell companies with bank ac-



Taher

SEE TAHER, 2A

THE COURTS

Con man who scammed stars is a no-show at his latest court date

■ For the high-profile scam, Jones did only 16 months behind bars before coming to South Florida. Now, he’s accused of using phony documents to get control of luxury condos.

BY DAVID OVALLE
dovalle@miamiherald.com

The notorious Miami con man who scammed celebrities and sports figures by promising Mia-

mi Heat season tickets is now a fugitive — accused of using phony documents to snag ownership of luxury South Florida condos.
An arrest warrant has been issued for George French Jones,



Jones

smooth talker who has spent the past few decades in and out of

49, after he failed to show up to a recent court date in Miami.
The disappearance was expected by victims of Jones, a law school-trained

jail for various swindles. In the Miami case, Jones was free awaiting trial after posting a \$30,000 bond, but was never required to wear an ankle monitor.

“It doesn’t come as a surprise. I wish I could have bet on it,” said Los Angeles sports agent David Meltzer, who lost \$200,000 to Jones in the Heat

scam a few years ago. “What saddens me is that I know he’s going to do it again.”
Jones’ listed phone number no longer accepts incoming calls. His lawyer, Fred Moldovan, could not be reached for comment on Monday morning.
Jones’ long history of financial

SEE JONES, 2A



LOCAL & STATE

FIU GRAD’S INSPIRING WALK

Everyone in the room applauded Shane Mosko, who was paralyzed in a 2012 accident, when he received his diploma, 3A



WISH BOOK

ABUSE SURVIVORS START NEW LIVES

A mother and a daughter who endured severe domestic violence are slowly learning how to adjust to freedom, 1C



SPORTS

UNHAPPY WITH MARLINS’ CHOICES

J.T. Realmuto, left, and Christian Yelich, the team’s two best remaining position players, don’t like the team’s recent trades, 1B

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